

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01

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P 030715Z JUL 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3986

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL PEKING 1232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TH CH

SUBJECT: THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC

REF: PEKING 1220

1. THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PROMOT DEPARTED PEKING FOR SHANGHAI TODAY AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HIS PRIMARY MISSION OF ESTABLISHING FORMAL THAI-PRC TIES. WHILE HERE, HE HELD EXTENSIVE TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS ON MAJOR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE THAI INSURGENCY, US FORCES IN THAILAND, CAMBODIA, LAOS, TRADE AND A RETURN PRC VISIT TO THAILAND. THE JULY 1 JOINT COMMUNIQUE SETT-  
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ING UP TIES FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE WORDING OF THE SINO-PHILIPPINES COM-

MUNIQUE SIGNED IN JUNE WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS BUT ADDED THE EXPANDED LANGUAGE ON THE QUESTION OF DUAL NATIONALITY FOR CHINESE NATIONALS FROM THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNIQUE SIGNED A YEAR AGO. NEWSMEN HERE HAVE BEEN TOLD EMBASSIES WILL BE SET UP IN THE TWO CAPITALS IN A FEW MONTHS.

2. AT THE RETURN BANQUET ON THE EVENING OF JULY 2, KHUKRIT CALLED HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE LEADERS "FRANK", BUT SAID THEY TOOK PLACE IN A "FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." HE REFERRED TO DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BUT SAID THE "CLOSE AFFINITY" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD SMOOTH OUT THE DIFFERENCES. VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING CHARACTERIZED THE TALKS AS "REWARDING TALKS ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN" IN HIS SPEECH AND CALLED FOR THE FREINDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO GROW STRONGER AND DEVELOP CONTINUOUSLY.

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE (TEXT SEPTEL) JUST BEFORE THE RETURN BANQUET, KHUKRIT GAVE NEWSMEN SOME OF THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DISCOMFORT OF CHINESE OFFICIALS PRESENT. KHUKRIT SAID THE CHINESE DENIED COMPLETELY THAT THEY HAD GIVEN AID TO THE THAI INSURGENTS OR THAT A RADIO (THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND) SUPPORTS THEM FROM CHINA. ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THE CHINESE DENIAL, KHUKRIT SIDESTEPPED BY SAYING HE WAS IN CHINA "FOR FRIENDSHIP, NOT TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION." KHUKRIT SAID HE DISCUSSED THE INSURGENTS WITH MAO TSE-TUNG--WHO DEEPLY IMPRESSED THE THAIR LEADER--AND MAO SUGGESTED AN APPROACH (NOR FURTHER EXPLAINED) FOR KHUKRIT TO TAKE IN DEALING WITH THEM.

4. KHUKRIT DESCRIBED THE CHINESE AS "NEUTRAL" TOWARD THE REMOVAL OF US FORCES AND BASES FROM THAILAND AND TOLD A QUESTIONER THAT THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET DESIRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN BASES REFERRED IN THE OPENING BANQUET BY TENG HAD NOT COME UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID THE CHINESE ADMITTED THEY HAD SENT SOLDIERS TO LAOS "TO MAKE ROADS" TO ASSIST THE LAO PEOPLE BUT THEY HAD WITHDRAWN THEM WHEN THE PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED. ON CAMBODIA, HE SAID HE HAD ASKED CHOU EN-LAI TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO SIHANOUK THAT THAILAND WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE FREINDS. KHUKRIT ALSO SAID A TRADE PROTOCOL WOULD BE SIGNED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND TENG HSIAO-PING HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO THAILAND.

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5. COMMENT: DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN PEKING WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE AURA OF DIGNITY AND TOUGHNESS THAT KHUKRIT MANAGED TO MAINTAIN DURING HIS PILGRIMAGE TO PEKING. IN A CITY WHERE RHETORIC AND FLATTERY ARE THE DIPLOMATIC NORM, HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD STYLE WAS A WELCOME BREATH OF FRESH AIR. DURING THE TALKS, WE ASSUME HE LEFT HIS CHINESE HOSTS WITH NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THAI FREINDSHIP BUT THE FRANK

DISCUSSION PROBABLY LAID A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR FRUITFUL, IF  
LIMITED, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMMUNIQUES, NEGOTIATIONS, DUAL NATIONALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PEKING01232  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750230-0830  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaadaej.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PEKING 1220  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, CH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT, M R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006